



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.6920 | FAX (517) 373.2751
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/

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CONTACT: Darin Ackerman
Phone: (517) 373-6920

Kuipers to attend EPA air-quality meeting with Hoekstra

LANSING — Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, will attend a meeting that will explain the federal Environmental Protection Agency's proposed air quality rules on ozone emissions.

Federal officials at the meeting, organized by U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Holland, will try to answer questions from state and local leaders and lawmakers as well as members of the public. The meeting will focus on acceptable ozone levels established in the National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

Besides Rep. Hoekstra, officials from the EPA's Region 5 Air and Radiation Division in Chicago, which deals with Michigan, and EPA officials from the agency's Washington, D.C., headquarters will attend.

"I'm pleased to see Michigan's members of Congress making sure rules handed down from Washington don't jeopardize jobs," Kuipers said. "Like many people in West Michigan, I want to know how these regulations would be enacted, especially because the region gets most of its air-quality problems blown in from the Chicago area instead of being created locally."

In July, Michigan's congressional delegation sent a letter to the EPA seeking information about the potential of inflexible requirements in the proposed rules that could hamper business growth and competitiveness in the state.

The meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. Monday at Holland City Hall, 270 S. River Ave.